

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
FY 2000 Congressional Language  
(Dollars in Thousands)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) - Appropriated</b>	No similar language.	Urges the Department to seek procedural methods that allow shipment of untreated fruit grown in HI to cold-weather states during winter months without jeopardizing pest introduction to mainland agriculture.	No similar language.	APHIS has been studying the issue, but may not be able to resolve it until mid-FY 2001. The Agency is particularly concerned with developing a mechanism to isolate flights destined for cold-weather locations from other flights at departure points.
	No similar language.	Directs APHIS to allocate no less than the FY 1999 funding level so that sufficient staffing is available to minimize disruptive cargo inspections in HI.	No similar language.	APHIS is complying with this directive.
	No similar language.	Directs APHIS to test and evaluate new inspection technologies and other methods and hiring arrangements for pre-clearance baggage inspections at HI airports. Report must be made to Committee by 1/31/00.	No similar language.	APHIS provided a report by 1/31/00.
	Directs APHIS to work with domestic avocado growers on the safe importation of Mexican avocados and to report on the status of Mexican avocado imports including pest surveys and diversion of Mexican imports to other than approved destinations.	No similar language.	No similar language.	APHIS will submit a report in the spring of 2000 after the shipping season ends.
<b>Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) - User Fees</b>	No similar language.	Directs APHIS to report to Congress by 1/31/00 on APHIS activities regarding the acquisition and deployment of state-of-the-art inspection technology at	No similar language.	APHIS provided a report by 1/31/00.

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		likely points of entry for screening passengers luggage for banned agriculture pests and diseases, that these technologies be commercially available for greatest cost-advantage for safety reliability, cost, etc.		
	Urges the Department to provide additional positions for APHIS cargo and passenger inspection operations at the Miami International Airport.	No similar language.	No similar language.	New user fees took effect on December 16, 1999, which will allow APHIS to fund these positions.
<b>Cattle Tick</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>FMD</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection</b>	No similar language.	Earmarks \$6 million for fruit fly exclusion and detection in the State of Florida.	The conference agreement does not include an earmark of \$6 million for the State of Florida as proposed by the Senate.	APHIS will comply with this directive.
<b>Import/Export Inspection</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards</b>	Expects that domestic products be subjected to the same sanitary and phytosanitary standards as imported products, that products not meeting these standards be rejected, and that APHIS provide adequate staffing levels at borders and points of entry.	No similar language.	No similar language.	APHIS will comply with this directive.
<b>Screwworm</b>	Recognizes that the transfer of the Screwworm facility in Chiapas Mexico may add to	No similar language.	Support the Department's continuation of the screwworm program to assure the pest does not	APHIS is working with the Mexican government. They are considering

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	unemployment in the area. Directs APHIS to work with other appropriate USDA and multinational agencies to develop solutions that do not compete with U.S. agriculture production.		reestablish itself in the United States and commends the efforts of the Department in assuring the lease of a production plant in Panama to maintain a biological barrier to the screwworm fly.	proposals for alternate uses of the plant.
<b>Tropical Bont Tick</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Animal Health Monitoring &amp; Surveillance</b>	Provides \$750,000 for the National Poultry Improvement Program.	Provides funding increase of \$136,000 from the FY 1999 level of \$240,000 to continue the NPIP.	Adopts Senate language providing an increase of \$136,000 above the FY 1999 level for a total of \$376,000 for the National Poultry Improvement Plan.	APHIS has allocated the additional funds to the NPIP. These funds will support diagnostic testing services associated with the NPIP and the poultry futures initiative.
	No similar language.	Provides FY 1999 funding level for enforcement of the Commercial Transportation of Equine for Slaughter Act.	Adopts Senate language providing funding for the Commercial Transportation of Equines for Slaughter Act at the FY 1999 level.	APHIS proposed a rule in the <u>Federal Register</u> 5/19/99 to establish regulations pertaining to the commercial trans. of equines to slaughtering facilities. Funds will also support an equine expert on staff and an educational campaign aimed at the industry.
	No similar language.	Does not provide funding for the Contagious Equine Metritis.	Provides no funding for the contagious equine metritis program as proposed by the Senate.	As directed, APHIS has provided no funds for this program.
	No similar language.	Provides \$1.5 million for the new certification and control program for Johnes Disease as proposed in the budget.	No similar language.	APHIS has allocated these funds to the development and implementation of a Johnes program. Funds will support a Johnes

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				expert on staff; training; studies on Johnes; and herd inspections.
	No similar language.	Does not provide funding for the national health emergency management system program.	No similar language.	Conference provided \$627,000. Funds will support 1 Regional Coord.; a test exercise; FEMA & SEMA networking; training; & information dissemination.
	Directs the following activities: (1) preclearance of passengers entering U.S. from high risk countries; (2) enhanced surveillance of high risk U.S. herds; (3) enforcement of the Swine Health Protection Act; and (4) improved training and educational efforts for state and Federal animal health officials and accredited veterinarians.	No similar language.	No similar language.	For FY 2000, APHIS continues to conduct enhanced surveillance of high risk U.S. herds for CSF. To date, more than ? herds have been tested. All herds have been negative for CSF.
	Provides funding for National Farm Animal Identification and Records Project for Dairy Cattle at FY99 levels.	No similar language.	No similar language.	Funds have been provided to continue the FAIR project at the FY 1999 level.
<b>Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>National Health Emergency Management System Program--</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	

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<b>Pest Surveillance and Detection</b>	Requires timely compensation of economic losses due to karnal bunt.	No similar language.	No similar language.	
<b>Aquaculture</b>	Provides \$667,000, of which \$100,000 is for northwest Florida, southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia.	Provides \$567,000. [Senate provided \$100,000 from Wildlife Services operations to manage population of fish-eating birds in the mid-south area.]	Provides \$767,000 of which \$100,000 is to support a wildlife biologist at the Northwest Florida Aquaculture Farm in Blountstown, FL to serve parts of Florida, Alabama and Georgia.  Directs that the additional funding of \$100,000 above the FY 1999 level in aquaculture is provided for work on telemetry studies conducted at the WS offices in Starkville, MS.	APHIS is hiring a wildlife biologist on a temporary basis.  APHIS has begun telemetry studies to evaluate cormorant depredation to aquaculture.
<b>Biological Control</b>	No similar language.	Concerned about the introduction of gorse and miconia into HI. Directs APHIS to work with HI Department of Agriculture and NRSC to develop an integrated approach for eradicating these pests.	No similar language.	APHIS is working with all States to develop environmentally friendly weed management strategies. For example, the Agency is working with the Hawaiian Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop biocontrol measures for invasive weed species in Hawaii. APHIS recently canvassed all States to determine the most threatening weeds in the U.S.; those identified in Hawaii were ginger, wattle, and Australian tree fern. Once APHIS determines the appropriate

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				<p>weeds overall to target for biocontrol, we will develop action plans, including environmentally safe biological controls, and will begin working with the States to implement biocontrol programs for the management of these harmful invasive weeds. In addition, APHIS supports a Cooperative Agreement and Grant Program that provides financial assistance to State cooperators to increase and improve the effectiveness of their biological control programs. Proposals for FY 00 awards are due in February 2000. If the Agency receives and approves proposal(s) for the control of weed pests in Hawaii, then this is another way that APHIS can assist States like Hawaii to deal with pests that may not be nationally widespread. <i>* If we do not receive proposals from Hawaii this year, then we can inform Congress of the program and encourage them to encourage their constituents and state</i></p>

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				<i>organizations to apply for funds next year</i>
<b>Boll Weevil</b>	Urges APHIS to continue to provide eradication and technical assistance to New Mexico.	Report language regarding the \$1.548 million addition; urges APHIS to continue development of geographic information system to improve weevil eradication efforts. Does not provide for a 30-percent agency cost share. Urges APHIS to provide detection and eradication efforts in New Mexico.	Adopts Senate language noting that the increase in the BW eradication program over FY 1999 is to increase the federal cost share.  Also adopts Senate language urging continuation of the development of the GIS so that economic and entomological efficiency of the BW program can continue to improve and reduce overall program costs.	APHIS will continue providing monitoring and technical assistance as needed for boll weevil detection and eradication in New Mexico. APHIS will aggressively pursue strategies to minimize the risk of boll weevils infesting New Mexico and West Texas from adjacent areas of northern Mexico.
<b>Brucellosis</b>	Directs the Department to provide assistance to the Idaho Wildlife Brucellosis Plan, including as much funding as possible.	No similar language.	No similar language.	APHIS will continue to provide assistance to Idaho when needed. Additional funds have not been provided for this plan and there are no additional funds in APHIS' current budget for this plan.
	No similar language.	Provides \$750,000 for the State of Montana to protect the State's brucellosis-free status and of the operation of a bison quarantine facility and the testing of bison that have left Yellowstone National Park.	Adopts Senate language providing an increase of \$750,000 for the State of Montana to protect the state's brucellosis-free status, the operation of the bison quarantine facility, and testing of bison that have left Yellowstone National Park.	APHIS has begun the process for giving \$225,000 to Montana for the Horse Butte quarantine facility. APHIS is holding the remaining funds, pending the development of a spending plan for how the funds will be used. MT & APHIS will develop the plan cooperatively.
	No similar language.	Provides an increase of \$610,000 above the FY99 levels for the Greater	Adopts Senate language providing an increase of \$610,000 for the Greater	APHIS is in the process of distributing these funds to

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		Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee.	Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee and encourages the coordination of federal, state and private actions aimed at eliminating brucellosis in the greater Yellowstone area.	the involved States (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) through a grant or cooperative agreement.
<b>Emerging Plant Pests</b>	Provides \$2.1 million for Asian Longhorned Beetle in Illinois and New York. Urges continued use of CCC funds.	Provides \$2.1 million above the FY 99 level to combat the beetle in New York and Illinois, and urges APHIS to work with the University of Vermont in researching a fungi to combat the beetle.	No similar language.	APHIS will comply with this directive.
<b>Grasshopper / Mormon Cricket</b>	No similar language.	Directs APHIS to use contingency funds should a severe outbreak occur.	Directs the agency to use contingency funds along with available Commodity Credit Corporation funds to assist the farmers and ranchers in the western states to control the growing population of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets.	APHIS is currently preparing environmental documentation (assessing risks associated with new techniques, updating consultations, etc.) for the program and is reviewing options for revisiting the grasshopper environmental impact statement. In addition, we plan to conduct spring predictive surveys. At this time, there is no clear indication of the funds required for the crop protection programs; however, a minimum need could be as high as \$1.3 million.
<b>Golden Nematode</b>	Provides \$145,000 increase for survey and equipment.	No similar language.	No similar language.	
<b>Gypsy Moth</b>	No report language.	No similar language.	No similar language.	
<b>Imported Fire Ant</b>	Provides \$400,000 for fire	No report language.	Provides \$100,000 for fire ant	APHIS will increase



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	ant control program of which \$58,000 is for New Mexico.		control program of which \$58,000 is for New Mexico.	cooperative agreement funding with the New Mexico State Dept. of Ag. for activities in one quarantined county - Dona Ana County.
<b>Noxious Weeds</b>	No similar language.	Encourages APHIS to work with Texas regarding <i>orobanche ramosa</i> at the FY99 levels.	Encourages APHIS to continue working with the State of Texas regarding orabanche ramosa at the FY 1999 level.	<i>Orobanche ramosa</i> - The Agency pledges to maintain the program's FY 1999 funding level (approximately \$40,000) in FY 2000 and will continue to use the resources available to them to efficiently combat invasive plant species in Texas and in the rest of the United States.
<b>Noxious Weeds (continued)</b>	No similar language.	Directs APHIS to continue kudzu demonstration project at FY99 levels.	Adopts Senate language continuing the demonstration project on kudzu at the FY 1999 level.	Kudzu - In FY 2000, APHIS will continue to fund approximately \$45,000 in a cooperative agreement with Mississippi State University for demonstration of Kudzu control techniques
			Does not provide the requested increase in support of the Presidential Order on Invasive Alien Species proposed by the Senate. The House report provided full funding for this activity.	
<b>Pink Bollworm Eradication</b>	Understands that growers in AZ plan to begin a 3 year	Provides an increase of \$452,000 above the FY 99 levels for continuation of the	Adopts House language that expects the Secretary to instruct APHIS to	In FY 2000, APHIS received a \$267,000

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	cost-share PBW eradication program which will be expanded to include NM and western TX over the next six years. Expects APHIS to utilize all available resources to provide assistance, in addition to the direct appropriation and grower assessments, to operate this program during FY 2000.	sterile fly release in the San Joaquin Valley containment program, and to initiate an eradication program in five counties in AZ.	utilize all available resources to provide financial assistance, in addition to direct appropriations and grower assessments, to operate the pink bollworm program in FY 2000.	increase to prepare the Phoenix Rearing Facility for the production of 25-30 million sterile insects per day for continued aerial release in the San Joaquin Valley. We will use these funds to complete the development of space now held in reserve for the expanded program in Texas, New Mexico and northern Mexico. Activities will include fabricating and installing pupal emergence racks (collection system), constructing aerial drop machines for sterile insect release, and other specialized, time-consuming fabrications in the facility egg layer area. A larval cut out rack is still necessary before a pink bollworm eradication program can begin in New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico in FY 2002.
<b>Pseudorabies</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Scrapie</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Tuberculosis</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Wildlife Services</b>	Provides \$1.845 million for	Provides funding at FY 99 levels for	No similar language.	

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<b>Operations</b>	rabies control in Midwestern and eastern states, and coyotes and gray foxes in Texas. Earmarks \$400,000 for rabies problems in New York State.	Wildlife Services office in VT and FY 99 levels for VT oral rabies vaccinations program.		
	Directs APHIS to intensify research and control on migratory fish-eating birds, such as a double-crested cormorant, that negatively affects the southeastern aquaculture industry.	\$100,000 from Wildlife Services operations to manage population of fish-eating birds in the mid-south area.	No similar language	
	Directs the Department to maintain current levels of aviation operations and aviation safety.	Does not include the requested increase for APHIS to cooperate with FAA and local airports to reduce wildlife strike hazards.	No similar language	
	Urges implementing a baiting program to control blackbird damage to sunflowers.	No similar language.	No similar language	
<b>Wildlife Services Operations (continued)</b>	Directs APHIS to cost share with local sponsors for all control activities.	Notes the unique features of State and local cooperator activities in the implementation of wildlife services and disagrees with the Department's recommendation to impose higher cost share requirements on cooperating entities. The Committee encourages continued cost sharing of control activities to the maximum extent possible in all States.	No similar language	
	Directs APHIS to continue work associated with	Funding is provided at FY99 levels for cattail management and blackbird control in ND, SD and LA.	No similar language	

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	blackbird damage in Louisiana.			
	Provides \$500,000 for nicarbazin research as a means for controlling goose and other avian populations to increase airport safety.	No similar language.	Adopts House language providing for research and evaluation of nicarbazin as a means of controlling avian populations for airport safety.	
	No similar language.	Provides \$300,000 for the continued operations of a State Wildlife Service office in HI.	No similar language	
<b>Wildlife Services Operations (continued)</b>	No similar language.	Provides \$400,000 for the HI Department of Agriculture for a brown tree snake prevention program.	No similar language	
	No similar language.	Provides \$250,000 for MT for coyote and wolf control programs.	No similar language	
	No similar language.	Provides \$125,000 above the FY 99 levels to expand the coyote control program in West Virginia.	No similar language	
	No similar language.	Provides FY 99 funding for beaver management, Delta National Forest.	No similar language	
<b>Witchweed</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Animal Welfare</b>	Provides \$1 million increase to expand inspections and training.	Provides \$2 million above the FY 99 level for the Animal Care Unit to enforce the Animal Welfare Act. These funds should be used to increase the number of field inspectors and to conduct follow-up inspections for noncompliance. Does not assume collection from unauthorized	Does not include an increase of \$2 million above the FY 1999 level for the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act as proposed in the Senate.	No objection to the language.

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		animal welfare inspection user fees as proposed in the budget.		
	No similar language.	Directs APHIS not to increase funding and not to expand licensing and regulations for persons currently exempt who breed, raise and sell dogs and cats at retail directly to people who purchase for their own personal use and enjoyment.	No similar language	No objection to the language.
	No similar language.	Directs APHIS to reexamine and report to Congress by 3/1/00 on its regulations banning the tethering of dogs in light of the current practice in Alaska where sled dog transportation is important and a Cornell University report that concludes tethering, conducted properly, is superior to caging.	Notes that the agency has published regulations implementing the Animal Welfare Act which bans tethering of dogs, a practice common in Alaska and other locations that use sled dogs for transportation. A recent study conducted at Cornell University suggests that there is no significance in terms of aggressiveness, stressful behavior, socialization, or animal health between tethering dogs and keeping dogs fenced, outdoor in kennels under USDA/APHIS-approved conditions. In light of this new information, the conferees direct the Agency to reevaluate its regulations on tethering and report to the Committees on Appropriations its conclusions no later than March 1, 2000.	APHIS reevaluated the use of tethering and reviewed the Cornell report on tethering. After reviewing all information, APHIS concluded that prohibiting tethering in breeding and exhibition dogs is in the best interest of these animals as intended by the Animal Welfare Act. The final report was prepared on 3/6/00.
<b>Horse Protection</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Biotechnology/ Environmental Protection</b>	No similar language.	Does not assume collections from user fees as proposed in the budget	No similar language.	
	No similar language.	Provides an increase of \$1.137 million above the FY 99 levels for the National	Provides an increase of \$137,000 above the FY 99 levels for the	APHIS will continue to assist NMRAL with

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		Monitoring and Residue Analysis Laboratory in Mississippi.	National Monitoring and Residue Analysis Laboratory in Gulfport Mississippi instead of \$1.137 million as proposed by the Senate. The House provided no funding for this activity. The conferees encourage APHIS to work with the laboratory in securing timely payments for contract work done for USDA agencies.	securing timely payments for contract work done for other agencies.
<b>Integrated Systems Acquisition</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Plant Methods Development Labs</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Veterinary Biologics</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Veterinary Diagnostics</b>	Includes \$1.351 million for reliable tests for GATT and NAFTA.	No similar language.	No similar language.	No additional funds have been provided for this activity and APHIS does not have available funds to support these activities.
<b>Wildlife Services Methods Development</b>	Directs APHIS to carry out activities with State wildlife, management agencies and International Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.	No similar language.	No similar language.	
	No similar language	Provides FY 1999 funding level for the Monell Chemical Senses Center.	No similar language	
	No similar language	Provides FY 1999 funding level for the cooperative agreement with the HI Agriculture Research Center to control rodents in sugarcane and macadamia nut crops.	No similar language	

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<b>Contingency Fund</b>	No report language.	No report language.	No report language.	
<b>Citrus Canker</b>	Commends the Department for allocating \$25 million in CCC funds to combat citrus canker in Florida, and encourages continued use of CCC funds in this endeavor.	No similar language		
<b>Glassy-winged Sharpshooter</b>	No similar language.	No similar language.	Aware of the spread of Pierce's disease to many California crops resulting from the presence of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and encourages APHIS to work with the proper California agencies to help control these infestations and to draw upon the contingency fund as appropriate.	APHIS has provided \$360,000 from the contingency fund to California for this effort.
<b>CCC Funds</b>	No similar language.	No similar language.	Urge the Secretary to consider requests from the State of Florida for CCC funds for canopy replacement for trees destroyed in canker-affected areas, for release of the sterile Mediterranean fruit fly, and for increased fruit fly trappings.	The Secretary is considering these requests.
<b>General Use of Funds</b>	No similar language.	No similar language.	Expect APHIS not to redirect support for programs and activities without prior notification to and approval of the Committees on Appropriations in accordance with reprogramming procedures specified in the Act. Require that APHIS implement appropriations by programs, projects, commodities and activities as specified by the Committees unless otherwise notifies. Direct that unspecified	APHIS does not intend to redirect any funds.

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			reductions necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act are to be implemented in accordance with the definitions contained in the "Program, project, and activity" section of the Senate report.	
<b>Buildings and Facilities</b>	Includes \$3.2 million for Plum Island NY.	No similar language.	No similar language.	Based on Senate work papers, \$1.2M was provided to ARS as APHIS' share of modernization for Plum Island, NY.
<b>General Provisions:</b>				
<b><u>SEC. 705</u></b>	<p>"New obligational authority provided for the following appropriation items in this Act shall remain available until expended (7 U.S.C. 2209b): <b>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</b>, the contingency fund to meet emergency conditions, fruit fly program, integrated systems acquisition project, and up to \$2,000,000 for costs associated with collocating regional offices; ...</p> <p>..New obligational authority for the boll weevil program; up to 10 percent of the screwworm program of the <b>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</b>; . . .</p>	No similar language.	No similar language.	



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	shall remain available until expended."			
<b><u>SEC. 714</u></b>	"Such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2000 pay raises for programs funded by this Act shall be absorbed within the levels appropriated by this Act."	No similar language.		
<b><u>SEC. 715</u></b>	"Notwithstanding the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act, marketing services of the Agricultural Marketing Service; Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration; the <b>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</b> ; and the food safety activities of the Food Safety and Inspection Service may use cooperative agreements to reflect a relationship between the Agricultural Marketing Service, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, the <b>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</b> , or the Food Safety and Inspection Service and a State or Cooperator to carry out agricultural marketing programs, to carry out	No similar language.		

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	programs to protect the Nation's animal and plant resources, or to carry out educational programs or special studies to improve the safety of the Nations food supply."			
<u><b>SEC. 721</b></u>	"No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 30 days unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment."	No similar language.		
<u><b>SEC. 741</b></u>	No similar language.	<p>(a) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall offer to enter into an agreement with the Governor of the State of Hawaii to conduct a <b>pilot program to inspect mail entering the State of Hawaii for any plant, plant product, plant pest, or other organism that is subject to Federal quarantine laws.</b></p> <p>(b) The agreement described in subsection (a) shall contain the same terms and conditions as are contained in the</p>		Before a pilot program could be offered, two things would have to occur. (1) To ensure that such an inspection program is effective, any plants, plant product, plant pest, or other organism that is Federally quarantined and not present in Hawaii would have to be identified. Also, an assessment would be

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		<p>memorandum of understanding entered into between the Secretary and the State of California, dated February 1, 1999, unless the Secretary and the Governor agree to different terms or conditions.</p> <p>(c) Unless the Secretary and the Governor agree otherwise, the agreement described in subsection (b) shall terminate on the later of:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(A) the date that is 1 year after the date the agreement becomes effective; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(B) the date that the February 1, 1999 memorandum of understanding terminates.</p>		<p>required to demonstrate that those organisms are likely to be transported to Hawaii through the mail. Currently, we believe that this a minor pathway, compared to other means of artificial spread (which are already mitigated through our regulations). Nevertheless, we would be willing to assist the State in evaluating this pathway.</p> <p>(2) The second issue is to have the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Attorney's office, and the State of Hawaii agree to the inspection terms. Both steps must occur before an agreement could be offered. This agreement would contain similar terms and conditions as are contained in the memorandum of understanding entered into between the Secretary and the State of California, dated February 1, 1999. The Hawaii Dept of Agriculture is currently reviewing our draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which outlines program protocols - the same as those associated with our</p>

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<b>Program</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Status</b>
				current program with California. The Federal pests involved are those that are covered under our domestic quarantine regulations, as outlined in CFR 301. We have made contact with the U.S. Postal Service at the National level and they will be a signatory of the MOU. The program will follow the legal procedures that we currently use in Hawaii for our domestic mail program. State quarantine officers will be learning our domestic mail program procedures over the next two months even before the MOU becomes official. The domestic mail inspections for this program will take place at the Honolulu International Airport Postal Facility.
<b><u>SEC. 743</u></b>	No similar language.	After taking any action involving the seizure, quarantine, treatment, destruction, or disposal of wheat infested with karnal bunt, the Secretary of Agriculture shall compensate the producers for economic losses incurred as the result of the action not later than 45 days after receipt of a claim that includes all appropriate paperwork.		Previously, APHIS has issued new regulations for Karnal Bunt (KB) compensation on a yearly basis. However, the time-consuming regulatory process causes payment delays for past crop seasons. In mid-FY 1999, though, the Agency

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				<p>developed a long-term KB compensation policy and drafted proposed regulations to improve response time to producers. Since then, APHIS has withdrawn this proposal for the 1999-2000 crop season. This proposed rule, which is very similar to the 1997-1998 regulation that was finalized in June 1999, is currently undergoing Departmental review. There is no need to address the 1998-1999 crop season because there were no positive findings of KB that year. Once the new policy takes effect, all claimants should be able to be compensated within 45 days after receipt of a claim that includes all appropriate paperwork.</p>

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